

— 2019 —
HEARTLAND
Whiskey
COMPETITION



The American Craft Spirits Association (ACSA) have announced the winners of the 2019 Heartland Whiskey Competition, which was open to craft whiskeys from all 50 states that incorporate corn in their mash bill (the mix of grains used to make whiskey). In this second, biannual blind judging event, whiskeys from 13 “heartland” states also competed for Best of Show and Best of State, and all entries competed in their select whiskey sub-categories.

The competition, which was generously sponsored by state corn marketing associations, took place June 4th at CH Distillery in Chicago, IL ACSA facilitated the judging process with Board President Chris Montana, owner of Du Nord Distillery, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, who served as the Judging Director. Judges were selected by ACSA for their knowledge and experience specific to craft spirits.

The 2019 competition saw significant growth in the number participating states and entries with tougher competition for medals. Only five whiskeys were awarded a gold medal, while 40 received silver, and 22 bronze. “Several of the craft distilleries are also working farms that use the grain they grow to make their spirits so they are deeply committed to their product,” stated Don Duvall, Chairman of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board. “On behalf of all the participating corn associations I want to express our great respect and admiration as well as our continued support. While this is a challenging year for farming, we are pleased to see an important customer group grow and prosper.” The Best in State trophies were awarded to those whiskeys with the highest score in its respective state from all categories. Best of State award was limited to 13 Heartland states, including: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri, North Dakota and Texas.

BEST IN STATE - INDIANA

STARLIGHT DISTILLERY SINGLE BARREL BOURBON WHISKEY

CATEGORY WINNER - BOURBON

STARLIGHT DISTILLERY SINGLE BARREL BOURBON WHISKEY

(Tied with Middle West Spirits OYO Sherry-Finished Bourbon)

SILVER MEDALS

STARLIGHT DISTILLERY CARL T. BOURBON WHISKEY

STARLIGHT DISTILLERY CASK STRENGTH BOURBON WHISKEY